

Strategies to Address the Opioid Epidemic

The blueprint draws on a survey that asked experts to prioritize 20 potential investments they could make to address the opioid epidemic.⁷ The investments are organized into four domains: prevention, treatment and recovery, harm reduction, and criminal justice.

In the survey, Colorado experts were asked how they would allocate a hypothetical \$100 million over five years to address the opioid epidemic. Local decision-makers can use this table to apply the same concept to their hypothetical share of a settlement.

Decision-makers can use the tool below as they consider what programs already exist in their communities and what gaps remain. See page 8 for more on how to use this guide.

PREVENTION

		Insert Your Allocation Here
Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP)	Developing Colorado's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program to improve usability and increase utilization via electronic health records or other methods	\$
Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT)	Workforce training and funding to implement evidence-based secondary prevention approaches that identify and intervene with problematic use, abuse, and dependence on substances	\$
Provider Education	Trainings for practitioners on non-opioid pain treatments, non-addictive chronic pain therapies, and guidelines for opioid prescribing best practices	\$
Community Development	Funding for community development, schools, child care, family services, and job training to combat drug use	\$
Primary Prevention	Evidence-based primary prevention programs and strategies, including family and youth programming, to promote protective factors and reduce risk factors, as well as adult education programs and public communications campaigns	\$
Drug Take Back and Storage	Expand universal drug take-back programs to allow drugs to be returned to any pharmacy on any day and distribute secure containers for prescription drugs	\$

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

		Insert Your Allocation Here
Law Enforcement	Increased funding and training for local police, drug task forces, and interdiction efforts	\$
Community Corrections	Developing or expanding drug or family courts and other pre-arraignment or law enforcement diversion programs	\$
Jail-Based Addiction Treatment	Expansion of addiction treatment in jails and prisons	\$
Post-Incarceration Social Programs	Programs for reintegrating people recovering from substance use disorders into communities following incarceration	\$

TREATMENT AND RECOVERY

Insert Your Allocation Here

Substance Use Disorder Treatment Expansion	Expansion of the full spectrum of substance use disorder treatment: detox, inpatient/residential and outpatient treatment, and medication-assisted treatment	\$
Recovery Supports	Developing programs to improve access to housing and health care (other than for substance use disorders); employment opportunities and job training; community-based services, including peer supports and other resources aimed at promoting recovery	\$
Rural/Frontier and Underserved Treatment Programs	Expand treatment options in rural, frontier, and underserved areas, including mobile programs and telehealth/telemedicine programs	\$
Research and Evaluation	Funding for research into treatment outcomes, evaluation of program effectiveness, and the impact of policy interventions in Colorado	\$

HARM REDUCTION

Insert Your Allocation Here

Overdose Surveillance	Drug death and nonfatal overdose surveillance, including funding for law enforcement, medical examiners, and coroners to improve accuracy and timeliness of autopsy drug-testing	\$
HIV And Hepatitis Treatment	Screening, early detection, vaccines, and treatment for HIV, hepatitis, and other medical issues occurring among people who inject drugs	\$
Overdose-Reversal Drugs	Increased naloxone distribution and training	\$
Drug Checking	Production and distribution of testing strips for fentanyl and other adulterants, and other drug-checking services	\$
Syringe Exchanges	Establishing, running, and expanding existing syringe exchange programs, including syringe disposal	\$
Family Support	Support services for children and families affected by substance use disorders, including training for professionals such as teachers, law enforcement, and others	\$